

Applic. No.: 10/657,899
Amdt Dated November 16, 2005
Reply to Office action of July 19, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-6 remain in the application. Claims 1, 3, and 6 have been amended.

In item 3 on pages 2-4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1, 3, and 6 have been rejected as being anticipated by Wada (US 5,739,998) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

In item 5 on page 5 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 2 and 4-5 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Ishizuka et al. (US 6,469,325) in view of Satoh et al. (US 4,695,916) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The rejections have been noted and claims 1, 3, and 6 have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found on page 8, lines 4-9 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1, 3, and 6 call for, inter alia:

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auxiliary electrodes disposed on said common surface and each adjoining one of said second and third regions, said auxiliary electrodes being formed as gate electrodes, said auxiliary electrodes being electrically conductively connected with a respective one of said first terminal and said second terminal, and said auxiliary electrodes being so formed on said common surface that no parasitic effect between said first terminal and said second terminal leads to a conductive state between said two terminals; and

a control terminal for controlling the thyristor structure by an applied current embodied in one of said second region and said third region.

According to the invention of the instant application, parasitic elements on the surface of the thyristor structure do not lead to self-sustained ignition. Rather, an ignition can only be made possible by the specific control terminal (5) through the supply of a current. See page 8, lines 4-9 of the specification of the instant application. This feature is not disclosed by Wada or any other cited references.

Also, Wada does not disclose a "control terminal" in the sense of the invention of the instant application. In Wada, the P⁺-terminal inside the p-well region is connected with VSS and the N⁺-terminal inside the p-well region is connected with VDD, so that the pn-junction is polarized in a blocking direction and therefore no current flow will be initiated.

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Clearly, Wada does not show "auxiliary electrodes disposed on said common surface and each adjoining one of said second and third regions, said auxiliary electrodes being formed as gate electrodes, said auxiliary electrodes being electrically conductively connected with a respective one of said first terminal and said second terminal, and said auxiliary electrodes being so formed on said common surface that no parasitic effect between said first terminal and said second terminal leads to a conductive state between said two terminals; and a control terminal for controlling the thyristor structure by an applied current embodied in one of said second region and said third region," as recited in claims 1, 3, and 6 of the instant application.

Other cited references do not make up for the deficiencies of Wada.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1, 3, and 6. Claims 1, 3, and 6 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are dependent on claims 1 or 3, they are believed to be patentable as well.

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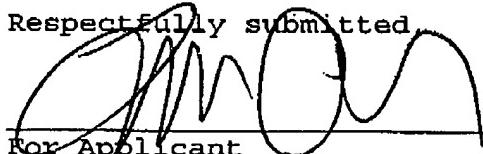
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$120.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted



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